

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 AGR-05 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT ET

SUBJECT: YOUTH LEAGUE, FARMERS' ASSOCIATIONS, AND LABOR
UNIONS STATUTES DRAFTED

1. NOVEMBER 4 MEDIA ANNOUNCED THAT DRAFT STATUTES ON LABOR UNIONS, FARMERS' ASSOCIATIONS, AND YOUTH LEAGUE HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AND REFERRED FOR APPROVAL TO THE PMAC. THE STATUTES WERE DRAFTED BY THE CIVILIAN ADVISORY BODY IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PMAC, PERTINENT MINISTRIES AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES. THE DRAFT STATUTES, "WHICH ARE BASED ON THE OBJECTIVES OF ETHIOPIAN SOCIALISM," SPECIFY GUIDELINES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF CELU, FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES AT DISTRICT AND PROVINCIAL LEVELS WITH RESPECT TO FARMERS' ASSOCIATIONS, AND FOR ORGANIZING ETHIOPIAN YOUTH BELOW THE AGE OF 30.

2. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THE ACTION ON THESE STATUTES HAS BEEN TAKEN OVER BY THE DIRG BECAUSE IT WAS UNHAPPY WITH THE CONTENTS OF THE DRAFTS AND THE SLOW PROGRESS WHICH THE CIVILIAN ADVISORY BODY WAS MAKING IN THESE AREAS.

3. COMMENT: IF THE REPORTS WE HAVE RECEIVED (PARA 2 ABOVE)
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ARE CORRECT, THE DIRG'S ACTION INDICATES AN IMPATIENCE TO GET

ON WITH RESTRUCTURING THE GOVERNMENT AND POSSIBLY A FELT USE TO MAINTAIN THE REVOLUTIONARY MOMENTUM. THIS SEEMS LIKELY, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THOSE AND OTHER REFORMS HAVE LONG BEEN EXPECTED. THE LABOR LAW, FOR EXAMPLE, SHOULD HAVE BEEN REPORTED OUT BY THE CIVILIAN ADVISORY BODY BY SEPTEMBER. IT IS WIDELY KNOWN, TOO, THAT MANY PEASANT ASSOCIATIONS HAVE BEEN INEFFECTIVE DUE TO LACK OF FORMAL GUIDANCE-- PREVIOUS GUIDANCE CONSISTED ONLY OF THE LAND REFORM PROCLAMATION ITSELF AND THE AD HOC RULES IMPOSED BY ZEMETCHA STUDENTS. IF THE DIRG CAN SPEEDILY MODIFY AND PROMULGATE THESE STATUTES, IT WILL BE A HOPEFUL SIGN OF THE DIRG'S ABILITY TO CONDUCT NECESSARY BUSINESS DURING PERIODS OF HIGH INTERNAL STRESS. THE CONTENT OF THE DECREES WILL ALSO GIVE ADDITIONAL CLUES ON FACTIONS WITHIN THE PMAC WHICH ARE CURRENTLY ASCENDANT.

4. MANY MORE DECISIONS/ACTIONS REMAIN: THE FORMATION OF A POLITICAL PARTY, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION PLAN; ANNOUNCEMENT OF AN AGRICULTURAL TAX POLICY (SIGNS POINT TO A LIKELY COMPLETE REMISSION OF THIS TAX THIS SEASON); CLARIFICATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN CERTAIN SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY, PARTICULARLY IMPORT/EXPORT AREA. WE HAVE ALSO HEARD THAT MODIFICATION OF THE RURAL LAND REFORM PROCLAMATION IS BEING CONSIDERED. EVEN WITHOUT MODIFICATION, HOWEVER, SEVERAL DECISIONS NEED TO BE MADE, FOR EXAMPLE, THE TREATMENT OF CERTAIN CHURCH LANDS, COMMUNAL LANDS, COMMERCIAL FARMS, ETC.
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